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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,604	02/19/2004	Kouichi Takaki	04175.0054	3176
22852	7590	06/26/2008		
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER AGGARWAL, YOGESH K	
			ART UNIT 2622	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/26/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/780,604

Applicant(s)

TAKAKI ET AL.

Examiner

YOGESH K. AGGARWAL

Art Unit

2622

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 14 and 17-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-13, 15, 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 March 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/29/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application.
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-23 in the reply filed on 03/05/2008 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takaki (US Patent # 5,686,650).

[Claims 1, 7 and 18]

Takaki teaches a CCD pulse generator (col. 11 lines 49-51) for use in an image capturing device comprising:

digital delay type CCD control signal generating means for finely delaying a transfer signal for driving a CCD, thereby generating a plurality of delay signals, and changing selection of the plurality of delay signals, thereby generating a CCD sampling signal for sampling a CCD output in synchronism with set rise and fall timings (See figures 1-4, figure 4 depicts generation of delay signals and changing selection of delay signals, col. 11 lines 9-13);

inverted/non-inverted signal generating means for generating a inverted and a non-inverted signal of the CCD control signal (input Clock signal);

selection means for selecting the turned over inverted signal and the non-inverted signal of the CCD control signal (depending upon the clock signal the flip-flop generates the turned over/untuned over signals, col. 4 lines 46-61);

output means, having an output enable function, for outputting the signal selected by said selection means (col. 3 lines 35-40); and

output signal condition setting means for setting pieces of condition setting information that determine operations of said respective means (col. 11 lines 49-51, generation of reset signal).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-6, 14, 17,19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaki (US Patent # 5,686,850).

[Claims 2, 17 and 19]

Takaki teaches at col. 11 lines 49-51, generation of reset signal for a CCD. Takaki fails to teach a CCD pulse generator further comprises blanking means for temporarily disabling a reset signal. However Official Notice is taken of the fact that it is very well known to have a clamp signal, spare signal, and the control signal in order to disable the CCD reset signal in order to reduce the power consumption of the device.

[Claims 3-6, 20-23]

Takaki fails to teach a CCD pulse generator further comprises blanking means for temporarily disabling a CCD clamp signal, spare signal, and the control signal includes a spare signal or a clamp signal. However Official Notice is taken of the fact that it is very well known to have a clamp signal, spare signal, and the control signal in order to disable the CCD reset, clamp and a spare signal in order to reduce the power consumption of the device.

[Claim 14]

Takaki teaches a pulse generator unit which is formed by combining at least two of pulse generators defined in claims 2 to 6 and comprises a plurality of output means, wherein all output enable functions of said output means are simultaneously controlled by one setting (See figure 1, 3a-3n are being controlled by one setting).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 8-13, 15,16 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOGESH K. AGGARWAL whose telephone number is (571)272-7360. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571)-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yogesh K Aggarwal/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622